

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS,  
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2017  
MEADOWEDGE MANSION, WEST SAYVILLE, NEW YORK**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gilbert Cardillo	Trustee, Town of Riverhead
Dawn Hopkins	Chair, Trustee, Town of Brookhaven
Debra Kolyer	Member of the Board
Peter Leis	Trustee, Town of Islip
Arthur Leudesdorf	Trustee, Town of Southold
Alexander McKay	Trustee, Town of Huntington
Terence McSweeney	Trustee, Town of Babylon
Terrence Pearsall	Member of the Board
Michael Rosato	Trustee, Town of Smithtown
William B. Sickles	Trustee, Town of Southampton
Richard F. White, Jr.	Trustee, Town of East Hampton

**ABSENT**

Kathleen Gooding	Trustee, Town of Shelter Island
VACANT	Member at Large

**PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Philip Berdolt	Commissioner
Adina Beedenbender	Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Nick Gibbons	Principal Environmental Analyst
Barbara Rittman	Senior Clerk Typist

**GUESTS**

Legislator Kara Hahn	5 <sup>th</sup> District
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**PUBLIC PORTION**

Joseph Kukral, FBN Camping Club/Suffolk Committee for Camping was present. He did not have a topic to discuss.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2016**

Page 3, Paragraph 4, Last sentence: Trustee McKay stated that the county budget **would** be reduced by the amount that was in the park district so that the overall county budget and whatever the park district brought in would be that much lower since the county wasn't funding the parks.

Page 6: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Trustee White** and seconded by **Trustee McKay**.

**A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Trustee White and seconded by Trustee McKay. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.**

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Legislator Hahn announced that she has taken the position of Chairperson of the Parks Committee for 2017. She reported that the region-wide round table forum that she has been organizing will be held tomorrow, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Brentwood Campus of Suffolk Community College to discuss the ongoing dumping issue in parks. It will be held in the Captree Commons Building at 10 a.m. One of the town parks in Legislator Hahn's district had construction debris and other dumping materials left there. Legislator Hahn commented that different degrees of dumping is going on in many parks, where people deposit yard waste, dig holes and bury construction debris, siding, roofing and 2 x 4s. She is hopeful that the forum will help in finding some constructive ways to put a stop to this illegal activity.

Presiding Officer Gregory passed legislation for a full inventory of county parks to be made so that a Parks Watch Program can be created, including a hotline for concerned residents to report illegal activity. Commissioner Berdolt stated that he and Presiding Officer Gregory have narrowed the list of county parks down to those that are not monitored on a daily basis. Several technological ideas are being considered for a hotline, as well as some possible sources to pay for it.

Trustee Rosato stated that local civic associations could be very helpful in the effort. There are several groups already active in the Town of Smithtown.

Trustee McKay suggested that local schools could have poster contests to get the students involved with the dumping issue in many parks.

Trustee Sickles suggested that local groups could hold clean-ups at the parks, similar to the beach clean-ups that are frequently held.

Commissioner Berdolt suggested instituting a county penalty or fine for illegal dumping activity.

Commissioner Berdolt reported that the Parks Department was very fortunate in that there was minimal erosion after the last storm.

Trustee Leis inquired about the Flight 800 Memorial after the storm and Commissioner Berdolt stated that there was no damage, thanks to the sea wall.

Trustee Leis inquired if there was an update on the Blueway Trail plans. Legislator Hahn reported that she issued legislation accepting the funds and there has already been an internal meeting for an RFP (Request for Proposals) with Economic Development and DPW.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Hopkins inquired about how many parks are not monitored on a daily basis. Commissioner Berdolt reported that approximately fifteen parks are at risk for potential dumping and a list was sent to Presiding Officer Gregory.

Chair Hopkins commented that the Bavarian Inn site at Lake Ronkonkoma looks great now that it has been cleared.

Chair Hopkins requested an update on the Golf Now application. Commissioner Berdolt reported that it is currently being reviewed and once procured, it will make it much quicker for golfers to reserve time. He added that it is a two-week process, web-based, very accurate and will improve accessibility and sales. It has become

a national trend, there is no out-of-pocket expense to pay for it, tee times will be bartered, and the pro shops can select the least played times for reservations.

Trustee McKay commented that the USGA sponsors an offer allowing golfers to play only nine holes on the ninth day of each month. Commissioner Berdolt added that golfers can play just nine holes if they wish at any of the county golf courses as well.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Member of the Board Debra Kolyer inquired about the success of the Girl Scout Holiday Light Show. Adina Beedenbender reported that 16,000 cars were received and \$39,546 collected by the Parks Department. The event was such a big success that it was extended an extra week. The Girl Scouts have already sent in an application for the 2017 light show event.

Trustee Cardillo reported that a good job was done on the snow plowing at Indian Island CP.

Trustee White reported that although the Montauk Lighthouse was not lit for the holidays this year, there will be holiday lighting for the 2017 season.

Trustee Leudesdorf reported that he has been working on the plans for the Parks Trustee meeting this year at Fisher's Island on August 9<sup>th</sup>. He is also working with the Southold Town Supervisor and Town Council on the Blueway Trail and hopes to coordinate some of the project plans with Legislator Hahn.

Trustee Sickles inquired about the inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Southampton for the Riverside Revitalization plans. Trustee Cardillo commented that the Town of Riverhead is not in favor of the foot-bridge.

Trustee Rosato inquired about the Nissequogue River SP Foundation omnibus grant reimbursement. Adina Beedenbender stated that she will look into it and get back to him.

Legislator Hahn stated that she would like to tour the larger county parks.

Nick Gibbons reported that grant funds were awarded to the Parks Department. \$250,000.00 was awarded for the Woodhull Dam fish ladder in Northampton. \$100,000.00 of those funds are going toward the design. The fish ladder will allow for certain species, such as alewife to bypass the dam and swim down Little River into Wildwood Lake which is a large spawning habitat for them.

\$2.25 million was awarded for the restoration of Mud Creek County Park in East Patchogue. The creek's lands and waters were once used by Gallo Duck Farm managers. Before that, the land contained streams, swamps and woods, with the east branch of Mud Creek flowing through the duck farm property. The project will allow for the restoration of the natural ecosystem and removal of sixteen old farm structures, eight of which are contaminated with asbestos. The project is planned to begin in the very near future.

\$250,000.00 was awarded for removal and replacement of trees infested by the southern pine beetle. Thousands of pine trees have been lost to the southern pine beetle on Long Island. Much of the cleanup has been taking place at Sears Bellows CP, Cathedral Pines CP, Lakeland CP and Hubbard CP.

Adina Beedenbender announced that the Suffolk County Parks Department website has been updated, making it much more efficient.

The next Parks Trustee meeting will be held at the Meadowedge Mansion in West Sayville on Thursday, February 23, 2017.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee White and was seconded by Trustee McKay. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0-0.**